

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

TRUSTEES OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL 9 PAINTING)	
INDUSTRY INSURANCE AND ANNUITY FUNDS,)	
)	Index No.: 16-CIV-3316
Plaintiffs,)	
)	<u>COMPLAINT</u>
-against-)	
)	
ACE RESTORATION SERVICES INC.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

Plaintiffs, Trustees of the District Council 9 Painting Industry Insurance and Annuity Funds (hereinafter referred to as the "Funds") by their attorneys Barnes, Iaccarino & Shepherd LLP allege as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action is based on the provisions of Section 301 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 (hereinafter referred to as the "Taft-Hartley Act") 29 U.S.C. Section 185, and on Section 502(a)(3) and Section 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA") (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(a)(3) and 29 U.S.C. 1145).

2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and Sections 502(e)(1) and 502(f) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1132(e)(1) and 1132(f)); and derivative jurisdiction is contained in 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331 and 1337.

3. Venue properly lies in this District under the provisions of 502(e)(2) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(e)(2)) and Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b).

4. This action is brought by the respective Trustees of the Funds in their fiduciary capacities for monetary damages and other equitable relief under ERISA and for breach of a labor contract to

secure performance by an employer of specific statutory and contractual obligations to submit the required monetary contributions and/or reports to the Plaintiffs.

PARTIES

5. The Plaintiffs' Trustees are, at all relevant times, the fiduciaries of jointly administered multi-employer, labor management trust funds as defined by Section 3(21)(A) and Section 502(a)(3) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(21)(A) and 1132(a)(3)). The Funds are established and maintained by the D.C.9 International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (hereinafter referred to as the "Union") and various employers pursuant to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements in accordance with Section 302(c)(5)(1) of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 186(c)(5)). The Funds are employee benefit plans within the meaning of Sections 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 1132(d)(1)), and multi-employer plans within the meaning of Sections 3(37) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(37) and 1145). Plaintiffs are Trustees of the Funds and the "plan sponsor" within the meaning of Section (3)(16)(B)(iii) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1002(16)(B)(iii)).

6. The Funds provide fringe benefits to eligible employees, retirees and their dependents on whose behalf the employer is required to contribute to the Funds pursuant to its Trade Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") between the Employer and the Union. The Funds are authorized to collect contributions which includes, but is not limited to, payments for life insurance, hospitalization, medical care, vacation, annuity and pension benefits on behalf of the employees of the Employers, and the Plaintiffs' Trustees as fiduciaries of the Funds are authorized to maintain suit as independent legal entities under Section 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(d)(1)) and are obligated to bring actions to enforce the provisions of the Agreement that concern the protection of employee benefit rights.

7. The Funds' principal office is located and administered at 14 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, New York 10532, in the County of Westchester.

8. Upon information and belief, the Defendant, Ace Restoration Services Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Employer” or the “Defendant”) at all relevant times, was and is an employer within the meaning of Sections 3(5) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(5) and 1145) and was and still is an employer in an industry affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185).

9. Upon information and belief, the Defendant is a for-profit domestic corporation duly organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York with its principal place of business at 102-06 Jamaica Avenue, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, in the County of Queens.

CAUSES FOR RELIEF
AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

10. The Defendant executed an Agreement with the Union and/or was and still is a party to a Agreement with the Union by virtue of membership in an Employer Association.

11. The Agreement and/or Policy for Collection of Delinquent Contributions requires the Defendant to submit contribution reports setting forth the hours and the period that each of its employees worked and the amount of contributions due pursuant to the rate schedules set forth in the Agreement for all work performed by its employees covered by the Agreement and to purchase benefit stamps in a timely fashion in accordance with the Agreement.

12. Upon information and belief, as a result of work performed by the individual employees of the Defendant pursuant to the Agreement, the Defendant purchased benefit stamps. However, the benefit stamps were purchased in an untimely fashion.

13. The Defendant has failed and refused to remit to the Funds for the period May 23, 2014 through March 17, 2015 the late charges due and owing under the Agreement in the amount of \$2,111.39.

14. The Defendant's failure, refusal or neglect to remit the late charges to the Plaintiffs constitutes a violation of the Trade Agreement between the Defendant and the Union wherein the Funds are third party beneficiaries.

15. Pursuant to the Trade Agreement upon the Defendant's failure to purchase stamps in a timely fashion and failure to remit the late charges to the funds' office, the Defendant is obligated to pay late charges that consists of interest at the rate of 2% percent above prime per annum and liquidated damages at the rate of 20% if the matter is referred to legal counsel.

16. In addition, should it become necessary to proceed with legal action to collect the late charges, the Defendant shall be responsible for attorneys' fees at the hourly rate charged to the funds and court costs and disbursements incurred in collecting the late charges.

17. Accordingly, the Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs for unpaid late charges for the period May 23, 2014 through March 17, 2015 in the amount of \$2,111.39, plus court costs and disbursements and attorneys' fees.

AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

18. Plaintiffs repeat, reiterate and reallege each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs "1 through 17" of this Complaint as if set forth at length herein.

19. Pursuant to the Agreement and/or Policy for Collection of Delinquent Contributions, the Defendant is required to timely purchase benefit stamps from the funds' office.

20. Upon information and belief, the Defendant has in the past failed to timely purchase benefit stamps from Plaintiffs and is in breach of the Agreement.

21. During the course of the instant action, late charges may become due and owing. If Defendant fails to timely purchase the benefit stamps, as part of this action, at the time of trial or judgment, whichever is later, those additional amounts should be included.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully pray for Judgment against Defendant, Ace Restoration Services Inc. as follows:

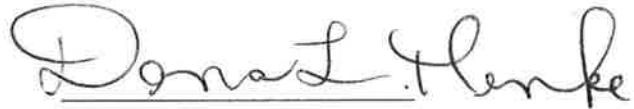
On the First and Second Claims for Relief:

- (a) In the sum of \$2,111.39 for the period May 23, 2014 through March 17, 2015.
- (b) Attorneys' fees and court costs and disbursements as set forth in the Trade Agreement and the Policy for Collection of Delinquent Contributions;
- (c) For such other and further relief as to the Court deems appropriate.

Dated: Elmsford, New York
May 2, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES, IACCARINO &
SHEPHERD, LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dana L. Henke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Dana L. Henke, Esq.
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